

Less Noise, More Light

On a quiet Sabbath morning the people gather together in the house of God that they may receive help and instruction and inspiration from the services of the morning hour. Do they always get it? We fear not. In too many pulpits throughout the land there is more noise than genuine instruction. The preacher imagines the louder he can "holler" the more wisdom he imparts and the more inspiration he brings to his people. But in this he is mistaken. One may be earnest without being "noisy." The pulpit affords splendid opportunities for oratory and multitudes of ministers are caught in the snare. If they could but read the hearts of their hearers they would soon learn that it is not noise that the people want, but light, instruction, wisdom, guidance and inspiration; these do not come thro "yelocation." Once in the Virginia assembly representative Charles O'Ferrall told a story that is a faithful delineation of the oratory that is heard in many a pulpit. Bourke Cockran had for two hours addressed the House, making a wonderful display of oratory, without adding to its store of wisdom. O'Ferrall followed Cockran, and referring to his awful uproar and paucity of argument, observed:

As I sat listening to the gentleman, Mr. Speaker, and reflected on the riot of words without purpose or aim, or any fleeting, passing glimmer of good sense he was unloading on this House, I began to feel like the old darkey who was plodding and splashing homeward through a midnight thunderstorm. The winds were blowing and the rain was sheeting down. Every other moment a flash of lightning slashed the heavens briefly like a knife of fire. Then followed the thunders, rolling crash on crash, as if the very roots of the hills were being torn from their home in the ages. The lightning would last but a second, and then leave the poor old darkey in blacker night than ever. But the thunders were incessant; their rollings were without end. At last the old darkey became frightened, and, following a thunderous peal of unusual horror, he plumped down on his knees in the mud and began to pray, 'Oh! Lawd,' he cried, 'far be it from one so humble as I to tell Thee Thy business. But if it's all de same to Thee an' doan't pester Thee or change too much Thy infinite plans, couldn't this storm be managed so as to give us a leetle less noise an' a leetle mo' light? Amen!'

As White as Snow

An officer, sitting one day in a fellow officer's room, was surprised on looking thro the stained glass window to see the red-coated soldiers apparently dressed in white, and drew his friend's attention to the strange sight. "Oh," said his friend, "whenever one looks thro the red-stained glass at a red object, it appears white." "Though our sins be as scarlet" they may be covered by the blood of Christ, and God will see them thro that, and "they shall be as white as snow." "When he seeth the blood he will pass over."

Brief Notes

The debatable ground between what is clearly right and what is clearly wrong is a veritable valley of dead men's bones.

The office of the gospel is to build up, not a system nor a civilization, but to build up men.

A painter was once asked, "With what do you mix your colors in order to obtain such exquisite results?" "With brains," replied the painter. Try the effect of brains in your next sermon.

"The kingdom of heaven is within you." Establish that, and all the potentialities, the splendors and infinities will follow.

The difficulty of a hard task often rests more in the apprehension than in the attempt. Go at it with an indomitable spirit. An invincible resolution is more than a match for an insuperable obstacle.

Smart Infidel.—"Your Bible says that David, the adulterer, liar and murderer, was a man after God's own heart. What sort of a God is that?"

Quiet Christian.—"You establish the truth of God's word, for Nathan told David, 'By this deed thou hast given occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme.'"

There are many who hesitate to give a tenth to the Lord, but should you even give a tenth, whose is the other nine tenth? "Behold, ye are bought with a price; ye are not your own." Make not so free with the goods of your Master.

He is the wisest philosopher who has learned how to get the greatest enjoyment out of the little things of life. The great things—great wealth, great power, great talent—are out of the reach of the crowd, and unless we learn how to make the most of little things we will always be stewing down to nothing in the bitter juice of foolish and impotent envy.

To be jealous of a man because he is better than you are, or abler, or more useful, because he is employed in more conspicuous services, because he succeeds, is conclusive and overwhelming evidence of a despicable spirit. Not even grace can prevent a feeling of contempt for that which is contemptible.

Secretary Long's estimate of \$37,000,000 for the fifteen new war vessels to be added to our navy doesn't look very comfortable to citizens and tax payers who are advocates of universal peace and disarmament. It is not a millennial proposition.

Millionaire Whitney of New York is monopolizing all the electric lighting of the metropolis in a gigantic trust which he has organized. If it were possible for money to monopolize sunlight and spiritual light, —but then we can all be profoundly thankful that such a thing is not possible.

Haverhill, Massachusetts has a socialist mayor who believes in the co-operative commonwealth. In his inaugural message he proposes a number of reforms in the interest of the workingman and the unemployed, all of which is rank heresy to those who believe in a social order which enslaves the masses that the classes may live in idleness and luxury.

The Pope forbids Archbishop Ireland to represent America in the Czar's International Peace Congress. His Holiness (?) will have no representative there, it seems, a decision influenced by jealousy of the Italian government which bereaved him of his temporal states, the "patrimony of St. Peter." Takes him a long time to get over the loss of his bone.

Herman Jaesche a plasterer living in Chicago and insured in the German Baptist Mutual Benefit Association for \$1000.00 claims now to be "dead to the world," having reached a state of sinless perfection, and therefore wants his money, which he demands in the name of his wife. Our German Baptist Brethren are a very practical people, but we fear that this new view of sanctification will be a little too practical, even for them. Brother Herman will have to be a long sight deader than he is before he gets that thousand dollars.

War with the Philippinos appears to be the next excitement on the program. They object to being swallowed, even by so benevolent an individual as Uncle Sam, and propose to die first. It appears to be one of the penalties of empire over alien peoples to have a plentiful effusion of blood. What a pity. We offer to be very kind and indulgent masters, but the deluded natives don't want any masters at all. What monstrous ingratitude.

Bishop Nicholas of the Russian Greek church in this country said recently in New York that the children who are trained in our public schools come out of them destitute of the fear of God, and often destitute of shame. After the sermon, the Bishop and his clergy went to a club and had champagne, a proceeding which we suppose was intended to illustrate the superior moral effect of their theology.

This is the era of congresses. Every movement, national, international, scientific, social or what not, has its congress where its advocates all get together to discuss and resolve. The Czar's International Peace Congress is the biggest thing of the kind on foot at present. On May 23 there will convene in Berlin, Germany, a congress to annihilate tuberculosis. The Congress, the Convention, whatever be the cause, is a symptom of progress and vital civilization, and those who make light of them are back numbers, Rip-van-winkles. Illumination and co-operation are the first laws of progress.

One of New York's merchant princes has established a large fund at his own expense to pension disabled or superannuated employees of the firm. He has also presented each employee with a life insurance policy for \$1000.00. The most valuable element of the transaction is the extremely practical light which it throws upon the vexed question of labor and capital. Old age pensions on the basis of long service and merit, together with beneficiary life insurance is the very best possible and certainly the most practical solution now in sight. If capital will not adopt it voluntarily, civil law ought to impose necessity upon their duty.

It is asserted that more than a third, indeed nearly one-half, of Paris is underrun by the quarries out of which the stone that went to build the city in ancient times was extracted. These underground passages and tunnels bear the name of catacombs, but were not originally intended as such. Indeed, it was only at the close of the last century that the Government conceived the idea of converting a portion of these tunnels in the stone sepulchral uses, and from 1786 until the end of the Revolution all the bones of the dead were collected from the various churches and cemeteries of Paris, where they had been accumulating for centuries, and were deposited in these vaults. It is calculated that the remains of over 3,000,000 human beings were thus disposed of, the bones, as a rule, being laid closely in order, with their ends outward, while at regular intervals skulls are interspersed in ranges so as to present alternate rows of the back and front part of the heads. The portion of underground Paris devoted to these relics of humanity is known officially as the "ossuaire municipal"—the municipal bonery—and, strictly speaking, it is only this part that should be known as the catacombs. But it forms a relatively small portion of the entire maze beneath the surface of Paris, which is to such an extent undermined that the city may almost be said to be built on pillars and buttresses, rather than on solid ground.

Your Safeguard

Ere you left your room this morning
Did you think to pray?
In the name of Christ our Savior
Did you sue for loving favor
As a shield to-day?
When you met with great temptation
Did you think to pray?
By his dying love and merit
Did you claim the Holy Spirit
As your guide and stay?

—Selected,